

**THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
TORBAY BRANCH, DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT THE PAIGNTON CLUB, PAIGNTON, TUESDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014.**

**Registered charity No. 270675  
Branch web site: [www.tbbk.co.uk](http://www.tbbk.co.uk)**

Present:

Mrs. Liz. Westcott.	(Branch vice Chair & Training Officer)
Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst.	(Branch Treasurer)
Mr. Douglas Westaway.	(Branch Secretary)
Mr. Mike Ticehurst.	(Branch web master)
Mr. Colin Waymouth.	
Mrs. Di Hatherley.	
Ms. Maureen Brown.	
Mr. Gerry Stuart.	(Branch Librarian)

In the absence of the Chairperson, Mr. Jim Mogridge, Mrs. Liz Westcott chaired the Meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

The Secretary reported that apologies for absence had been received from Mr. Kingsley Law, (President), Mr. Jim Mogridge (Chairperson) and Mr. Steve Westcott.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2014. APPROVAL & SIGNING.**

There being no proposed amendments, the Chairperson signed the minutes to indicate that they form an accurate record of the above Meeting.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - ACTION POINTS, ETC.**

- (i) See: Any Other Business (ii)
- (ii) Action Points from previous committee meetings.

- A/P 649 The Secretary reported that he had compiled a 'Cockington Apiary Management Team Guidelines'. Copies would be e-mailed to committee members for their consideration and discussion at the next committee meeting. *Carried forward.*
- A/P 653 *Carried forward.*
- A/P 667 *Carried forward.*
- A/P 708 *Completed.*
- A/P710 *Cancelled.*
- A/P 711 *Carried forward.*
- A/P 712 The committee agreed that the Branch Honey Show be held on the evening of Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January at the Gerston Christian Centre. Mrs. Liz Westcott was confirmed as the Show secretary. Doug Westaway agreed to deliver all honey show material existing from previous Branch honey shows to Liz at her convenience. *Completed.(A/P 733)*
- A/P 713 *Carried forward.*
- A/P714 *Carried forward.*
- A/P 716 Awaiting details of First Aid training Course. *Carried forward.*
- A/P 717 *Completed.*
- A/P 718 *Completed.*
- A/P 719 See A/P 730. *Cancelled.*
- A/P 720 *Carried forward.*
- A/P 721 Awaiting commencement of the 2015 Apiary summer season. *Carried forward.*
- A/P 722 *Carried forward.*
- A/P723 Mike Ticehurst agreed to undertake future 'hardware' maintenance at the Apiary. *Completed.*

- A/P 724 Gerry Stuart reported that 'Dave' was prepared to undertake groundwork maintenance at the Apiary but at a cost of £45 per visit. The committee agreed to place a range of hand tools in the Apiary shed (**A/P 734**) to enable the Branch's members to undertake maintenance work on the summer Saturday Apiary meetings. *Completed.*
- A/P 725 The Secretary agreed to inform the DBKA Secretary that the Branch's current named delegate would continue to represent the Branch at the EC Meetings for a further year. *Carried forward.*
- A/P 726 *Completed.*
- A/P 727 Liz Westcott confirmed that she had approached Mr. Jack Mummery earlier this year re judging a Branch honey show; she would confirm his availability for the January 13<sup>th</sup> date. *Carried forward*
- A/P 728 The Editor confirmed that the Honey Show had been featured in the November issue and would be featured in the December and January issues. *Carried forward.*
- A/P 729 *Completed.*
- A/P 730 The Editor confirmed that subs. payment reminders would be featured in the December and January issues of 'BUZZ'. *Carried forward.*
- A/P 731 *Carried forward.*
- A/P 732 Awaiting the winter months. *Carried forward.*

There were no other 'matter arising' from the minutes.

#### **4. THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

The Chairperson, Mr. Jim Mogridge, was unable to attend the Meeting.

Liz Westcott commented that this year's Cockington Apple Day had proved to be a very successful and enjoyable event. She thanked the members who had contributed produce and those who had helped to man the stall. She particularly thanked Gerry for his initiative in getting the Apple Day re-instated.

#### **5. THE TREASURER'S REPORT.**

It has been a busy time since the last Meeting as I have prepared the 'end-of-year' accounts and had them scrutinised by an independent person. The accounts are now ready for the AGM.

In August the bank balance was £2064.41. The bank account now stands at £3421.15.

Since the last Meeting I have received £512.03 from Jim for Apiary sales, £306.56 for the refund of Gift Aid and we have already received £560.00 on account of the next 'Introductory' beekeeping course. Jim has also recently given me a cheque for £126.00 for the net proceeds of the Apple Day at Cockington.

Our membership is 39 Full, 11 Associate, 3 Country and 2 Partner members making a total of 55.

Subscription forms are now being sent out and it would be helpful to have a few reminders so that all subscriptions are paid by the end of January. This gives the compiler of the DBKA Year Book more time to complete the task

*Lindsay Ticehurst.*

#### **6. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

It was confirmed by Liz Westcott that the current chairperson, Mr. Jim Mogridge, was prepared to stand again as Branch Chairman.

Liz expressed her apologies for being unable to attend the AGM. She was prepared to stand for re-election. The Secretary agreed to ensure that she was proposed for election to the committee. (**A/P 735**) Liz commented that it was essential that our younger Branch members be encouraged to put themselves forward for election to the Branch committee, initially to gain experience and to start getting involved in the organising of the Branch's various events. It would also enable them to get to know the other committee members. Recruiting new members would enable long-serving officers and committee members to more easily 'retire'. Zara Hannaford and Marian Tucker had both proved

to be enthusiastic members and may wish to offer themselves for election at the AGM.

## 7. EDUCATION.

### (i) Introductory Training Course.

Liz Westcott confirmed that the Course had been well-supported with 16 students and the possibility of 3 more. The charge for the course of approximately £10 per session plus the summer tuition at the Apiary was quite acceptable.

Mike Ticehurst advised that a selection of beekeeping equipment, a hive, etc. should be made available at the tutorials to enable the students to see and examine for themselves beekeeping items being described on the course.

Liz agreed that beekeeping items could be made available at appropriate times. A full-scale hive could be demonstrated to the students. (A/P 736)

### (ii) Hive sites for Introductory Course students.

Liz Westcott explained that the Introductory Course students tended, due to any available alternative, to place their first hives into their own gardens. This, due to lack of experience, could easily cause them to have difficulties with their neighbours.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the students be offered the opportunity to place one hive each onto a designated area of the Branch Apiary. The Apiary to be opened weekly with an experienced beekeeper present to supervise and assist the students.

Gerry Stuart advised the opening of the Apiary early on the scheduled summer meeting days to enable the 'beginners' to tend their hives.

It was agreed that the above suggestions be discussed with the Apiary Manager. (A/P 739)

### (iii) Module 6 Study Group.

Liz reported that a Module 6 study group drawing students from Kingsbridge, Newton Abbot and Torbay had been organised. She had agreed to be the facilitator. A correspondence course tutor was being arranged. The first meeting was scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> November. (A/P 737)

### (iv) Buckfast Abbey beekeeping courses.

Liz reported that an interesting range of beekeeping courses had been organised at Buckfast Abbey for 2015. Typically, an 8 lesson 'beginners' course was £100 and a one-day 'taster' course was £50.

The Secretary agreed to obtain and distribute full details of the courses available. (A/P 738)

## 8. THE COCKINGTON APIARY MANAGER'S REPORT.

The Apiary Manager unable to attend the Meeting.

See also (ii), Par. 7, Education.

Gerry Stuart reported that during the past summer, he had re-located 18 'rescued' bumblebee nests to the Apiary. There had been a notable increase in call-outs by the public to remove Tree Bumblebees which have a propensity to build their nests in bird-boxes. The bees were only removed when issues were raised by householders concerning the safety of children, etc. In the case of the Tree Bumblebee, the problem was exacerbated by the drones hovering in a large cloud around the entrances of the nests awaiting the emergence of the virgin queens.

Colin Waymouth confirmed that he was still prepared to continue his early-morning practice of coning-off the Apiary parking area in preparation for the summer meetings. However, due to his bee sting allergy, he was now not able to stay at the Apiary all day to recover the cones in the late afternoon.

Mike Ticehurst pointed-out that a new supply of hazard-warning tape would be needed at the Apiary for the summer season. (A/P 740)

## 9. THE BRANCH HONEY SHOW.

Liz Westcott, Honey Show Manager, confirmed that the date of the Honey Show was 13<sup>th</sup>

January. The venue, the Gerston Christian Centre, would be open from 2 p.m. for registration and the placing of entries onto the show bench.

Mike Ticehurst confirmed that he would be supplying the adhesive exhibit labels. (A/P 741)

Liz Westcott advised the following amendments to the show schedule:

(a) the moulded wax entry comprise five 'fingers' to correspond to the wax mould which contains five 'fingers', (b) that there are classes for both sweet and dry meads, (c) the cookery classes to comprise a honey sponge and a honey lemon curd, (d) heather honey to be deleted from the 'composite class' and replaced with 'a pair of wax candles'.

The amendments were agreed by the committee.

Liz agreed to produce the Show schedule and the entry form in time to be included with the December 'BUZZ'. (A/P 742)

Mike Ticehurst pointed-out that the entries described as 'labelled for sale' would contain the name of the exhibitor and could, therefore, be easily identifies by the judge. The Secretary agreed to raise this query with Jack Mummery. (A/P 743)

## 10. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) MEETINGS.

Lindsay Ticehurst reported that:

- (i) Jim Mogridge had been unable to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> September EC meeting. His apologies were given.
- (ii) Much time was taken up at the meeting attempting to identify a conflict resolution process to resolve a dispute between Mr. Ken Basterfield and an unnamed BBKA official. Subsequently, the EC voted to request the BBKA to hold a Special Delegates' Meeting. The EC also expressed a need for the BBKA to sign-up to a 'Whistle-Blowers' Charter'.
- (iii) The EC further discussed revising and updating the BBKA's 'Rules'. The discussion remains ongoing.
- (iv) The DBKA's Honey Marquee at this year's Devon County Show reported a loss of £3000 due to the unavoidable cancellation of 'day 3' of the County Show. It is hoped that the loss will be balanced by the usual profit at next year's Show.
- (v) The DBKA's Gift Aid form is being re-designed to make 'signing-up' for Gift Aid clearer. Unfortunately, the amended forms will not be available in time for distribution with this year's subscription forms.

## 11. BRANCH LIBRARY REPORT.

Gerry Stuart reported that one book had been donated to the Branch library. He was looking at purchasing John Yates BBKA module training booklets plus a new DVD. He would require approximately £17 funding.

The Treasurer agreed to the expenditure, pointing-out that the Stevenson Trophy award had been allocated to library purchases. (A/P 744)

## 12. PAIGNTON ZOO & OCCOMBE FARM B4 PROJECTS.

Gerry Stuart reported that the Occombe Farm B4 project was going well. B4 was currently looking for EU funding with a £1500 budget for Paignton Zoo and a further £1500 for Occombe Farm. The Occombe Farm management was very enthusiastic and wished Gerry to continue with his series of talks.

B4 was currently looking at the 'Physic Garden' at Plymouth University with the hope that an apiary could be established in the 'Garden'. A second meeting between the B4 team members and Prince Charles had been arranged at Highgrove.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- (i) Cockington Apple Day 2015  
Gerry Stuart reported that, in 2015, it was hoped to again hold the Apple Day plus a Christmas event in December.
- (ii) Abandoned hives at Occombe Farm  
Gerry Stuart confirmed that Mr. 'Stan' Stanislaus' empty hives remained at Occombe farm. He emphasised that their removal was a matter between the Occombe Farm management and 'Stan'. He was not and would not be, involved

### 13. THE DATE, TIME & VENUE OF THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING.

The date of the next committee meeting is Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015. The meeting will commence at 7-30 p.m. The venue to be the Paignton Club, 2, The Esplanade, Paignton.

### 14. ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

A/P No.	ACTION POINT DETAIL.	OWNER.
A/P 649	Compose Apiary rules.	Secretary.
A/P 653	View Jack Berry's documents.	Vice chair.
A/P 667	Investigate St. Johns Ambulance First Aid training.	Gerry & Secretary.
A/P 711	Appointment of Apiary Management Team.	Committee.
A/P 713	Stevenson Trophy tableau. Display at Branch honey show.	Chairman.
A/P 714	Advertise Branch library additions in 'BUZZ'	Librarian / Secretary.
A/P 716	Advertise first Aid training in 'BUZZ'.	Secretary.
A/P 719	Advertise subscription payment after financial year -end.	Secretary.
A/P 720	Request to Russell Beach to manage four Apiary colonies.	Apiary Manager.
A/P 721	Di Hatherley to supervise trainees at Apiary.	Di Hatherley.
A/P 722	Produce Apiary summer programme.	Apiary Manager.
A/P 725	Attendance at Executive Council meetings.	Secretary.
A/P 727	Identify a Honey Show judge.	Liz Westcott.
A/P 728	Publicise Honey Show in 'BUZZ'.	Secretary.
A/P 730	Subs. payment reminders in 'BUZZ'.	Secretary.
A/P 731	Purchase additional copies of library books.	Gerry Stuart.
A/P 732	Move Rosemary East's hive to Apiary.	Gerry Stuart

### 15. ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM THE PRESENT COMMITTEE MEETING.

A/P 733	Transfer Honey Show materials to Show Secretary.	Secretary.
A/P 734	Place miscellaneous hand tools in Apiary shed.	Committee.
A/P 735	Propose Liz for re-election at AGM	Secretary.
A/P 736	Hive & beekeeping items at Introductory Course.	Liz Westcott.
A/P 737	Module 6 study group progress.	Liz Westcott.
A/P 738	Buckfast 2015 training course details.	Secretary.
A/P 739	Hive placement & 'Beginners' access to Apiary	Apiary manager.
A/P 740	Provide hazard warning tape at Apiary.	Apiary manager.
A/P 741	Provide adhesive labels, etc. for honey show.	Mike Ticehurst.
A/P 742	Produce honey show schedule, entry form.	Liz Westcott.
A/P 743	'Labelled for sale' query with Jack Mummery.	Secretary.
A/P733	Purchase additional items for library.	Gerry Stuart.

